New Automobile Policy

2184. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ :
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are proposing to introduce a New Automobile Policy;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented ;

(c) the salient features of this policy; and

(d) what will be the benefits of the policy to the Automobile Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The policy is under formulation and will be announced once it is finalized.

Closing down of PSUs

2185. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to close down some of the Public Sector Undertakings under the control of his Ministry;

(b) if so, which are the PSUs intended to be closed ;

(c) what attempts are being made to run these undertakings efficiently and profitably;

(d) whether Government have prepared any revival package for these undertakings; and

(e) the details of the revival package implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Out of 49 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of Department of Heavy Industry, 5 unviable/sick PSUs have been closed consequent to permission of Appropriate Government under the ID Act. These PSUs are National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd. (NBCIL), Weighbird India Ltd. (WIL), Tannery & Footwear Corporation of India Ltd.

(TAFCO), Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd. (BPMEL) and Rehabilitation Industries Corporation (RIC). Besides, the Appropriate Government has given permission for closure in case of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd. (MAMC). Cycle Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL) has also sought permission for closure.

(c) to (e) Efforts to improve the performance of PSUs include revival through Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), financial restructuring wherever appropriate, joint venture formation to have continuous access to technology, finance and marketing, manpower rationalisation. Closure is the last option. Revival plans in case of 12 PSUs sanctioned by BIFR involving fresh infusion of funds to the extent of Rs. 637 crore and financial restructuring of Rs. 2063 crore are under implementation. In addition, Government on its own have undertaken restructuring in 7 other PSUs involving fresh infusion of funds to the extent of Rs. 531 crore and financial restructuring of Rs. 1443 crore.

Introduction of new model of cars and vehicles

2186. SHRI RAJU PARMAR :
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that every month new models of cars and other vehicles are being introduced in the country ;

(b) if so, the brand names of such passenger cars and vehicles presently plying on Indian roads with their ex-showroom prices ;

(c) whether in view of heavy congestion on road, Government would consider a total ban on issue of letter of indent for manufacture of new passenger cars; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) Automobile industry is delicensed. The Government have no control either over introduction of new versions/models of cars and other vehicles or prices thereof. There is no proposal to consider a total ban on manufacture of new passenger cars in the country. Ex-showroom prices of different models of cars vary from State to State depending on local taxes etc. As per information published in the December, 2001 issue of the magazine 'Autocar,' the ex-showroom prices of various models of cars are given in the Statement enclosed.